

# ASPIRA

Inc. of New Jersey



*Leadership Through Education*

## ASPIRA Inc. of New Jersey

is a community-based organization providing counseling and leadership development programs to Puerto Ricans/Latinos and other minority youth in urban centers throughout the state. Since its foundation in 1968, ASPIRA has helped over 30,000 low-income minority youths complete high school and go on to post-secondary education. Participating in the ASPIRA Process gave these students the encouragement and mentoring that inspired them to strive toward the highest possible levels of education, effective leadership, and commitment to their community.

### Leadership Development

ASPIRA has identified the development of a better educated and more community conscious youth as its primary goal. Leadership and development begins at the middle school and high school levels through a network of democratically organized student clubs. The ASPIRA after-school clubs provide positive, safe and healthy after-school activities as alternatives to the gangs, drugs, and violence which are ever present in our urban environments. In addition to completing a special leadership development curriculum, *Aspirantes* organized visits to local colleges and cultural institutions; conduct community service projects; and participate in workshops on topics of concern such as pregnancy prevention and substance abuse. The model of the program is designed to promote the ambition, self-confidence and critical thinking skills needed to: 1) graduate from high school; 2) pursue a higher education; 3) make a lasting commitment to helping others in their

### College and Career Counseling

Once ASPIRA is successful at getting at-risk students to remain in school through the clubs, it begins to work on the three main barriers to low income, minority students pursuing a higher education, namely: a lack of motivation, a lack of information, and the high cost of a post-secondary education. To help students and their parents overcome these barriers, ASPIRA provides guidance and training, as well as assistance with college entrance and financial aid applications, and SAT test preparation. ASPIRA counselors make students aware of the opportunities that are available to them in higher education through counseling, workshops and field trips. Every year hundreds of students, who otherwise would not have continued their education, are placed in colleges, technical schools and job training programs.



# Cultural Awareness

ASPIRA believes that young people cannot succeed unless they are aware and proud of their cultural heritage. To accomplish this, ASPIRA sponsors many activities during the year to expose students to their own culture, be it Latino, African American, Asian American or European. There are field trips to museums and theaters, guest speakers and workshops on history, culture, art, music and dance.



## Early Intervention

Over the years, ASPIRA has developed a highly successful intervention model called the ASPIRA Process. The model requires that we focus our efforts on developing the potential of our youngsters rather than trying to overcome their perceived deficits. The ASPIRA Process of Leadership teaches youth to: a) become aware of their current situation; b) analyze its consequences; and c) take action for change in their personal lives and in the life of their community. ASPIRA early intervention begins at the kindergarten, elementary and middle school levels through its after-school and summer camp enrichment programs. ASPIRA counselors and community volunteers work with children and youth (grades K-8) to improve student academic performance, behavior and attitudes towards school.



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An Investment in Puerto Rican-Latino Youth

**YES!** I/We want to join ASPIRA in helping thousands of Puerto Rican/Latino and other minority youth to remain in school and pursue a higher education.

**ENCLOSED IS A CONTRIBUTION  
IN SUPPORT OF YOUR PROGRAMS:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$200  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$50      | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic \$25       | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$1,000    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____      |  |

Credit Card:

\_\_\_\_ AMEX    \_\_\_\_ Visa    \_\_\_\_ MasterCard

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Make Checks Payable to:**

ASPIRA Inc. of New Jersey

390 Broad St. 3rd Floor

Newark, NJ 07104

Ph. (973) 484-7554 / Fax (973) 484-0184



The "pitirre" is the symbol of ASPIRA. A small, fragile tropical bird found in Puerto Rico, the "pitirre" is known for its agility and rapid flight and for its ability to outwit, tire, and defeat much larger birds. ASPIRA believes that the "pitirre" is a fitting symbol for young Latinos. Aspirantes gain the confidence of the "pitirre" by acquiring knowledge and developing leadership skills. They then can face and overcome seemingly overwhelming odds to become productive adults, returning to their communities the benefits of their skills and leadership.

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Atlantic City (609) 344-5881

Camden (856) 964-9115

New Brunswick (732) 828-8079

Paterson (973) 345-9033

Trenton (609) 392-1144

Vineland (856) 563-0007

Jersey City (201) 434-4081

# **ASPIRA**

## **OF NEW JERSEY**

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Newark, NJ 07104

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<http://www.aspira.org>



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**390 Broad Street**

**Newark, NJ 07104**



## **Our Mission of "Leadership through Education" promotes:**

- A value for education
- A positive self-identity
- The development of leadership skills
- A commitment to one's community
- Parent involvement in their children's education

## **ASPIRA program activities and services include:**

- Counseling and mentoring
- After-school tutorials/enrichment programs
- Parent workshops
- Leadership development seminars
- Middle school and high school clubs
- College/career counseling
- Cultural awareness activities and summer camps

